GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3529
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
USE OF TRACTORS IN A & N ISLANDS
BISHNU PADA RAY

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors in hand with Department of Agriculture of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) the number of staff in different categories working under the Department of Agriculture in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the amount being spent yearly on their salary/wages and other expenses;

(c) the hours these tractors are used in the field during a year;

(d) whether these tractors are being used for paddy cultivation only and remain unused for the rest of the period of the year;

(e) whether the Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands had declared on 15th August last year that tractors would be distributed to Panchayats whereas only 10 tractors have been distributed so far; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the rest of these are likely to be distributed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): There were thirty-seven (37) tractors in running condition available in the department out of which ten (10) tractors with matching implements have been handed over to the gram panchayats.

(b): The total number of employees of various categories working in the Department of Agriculture of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 1018. The total expenditure incurred on payment of their salary during the year 2000-2001 was Rs. 7.78 crore.

(c): On an average one tractor is deployed for 200 hours annually in the field operation.

(d): No, Sir. These tractors are used both in Kharif and Rabi seasons and also for cultivation of vegetables, pulses and oilseeds. Besides, they are also utilized for plantation and horticulture purposes.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. So far ten tractors have been distributed to gram panchayats. The distribution of the remaining tractors which are in working condition is at hand.